

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A Coanda flow amplifier (~~10, 10a, 10b, 10e~~), comprising:

a suction intake; (~~22, 22a, 22b, 22e~~),

an outlet; (~~24, 24a, 24b, 24e~~)

a fluid channel $[(42)]$ extending between the suction intake (~~22, 22a, 22b, 22e~~) and the outlet; (~~24, 24a, 24b, 24e~~), and

a drive flow inlet (~~60, 602, 60b, 60e~~) that is in fluid flow communication ~~fluid connection~~ with the fluid channel $[(42)]$ via a drive-flow discharge slit; $[(66),]$

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit $[(66)]$ is variably adjustable.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the drive-flow discharge slit ~~[[66]]~~ can be completely closed.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ the Coanda flow amplifier ~~(10, 10a, 10b, 10e)~~ comprises a flow-guiding element ~~[[26]]~~ that is arranged between the suction intake ~~(22, 22a, 22b, 22e)~~ and the outlet, ~~(24, 24a, 24b, 24e)~~ and is axially displaceable along a longitudinal axis ~~[(L)]~~ of the Coanda flow amplifier, ~~(10, 10a, 10b, 10e)~~.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the suction intake ~~(22, 22a, 22b, 22e)~~ is arranged in a first housing section; ~~[(14)]~~ and

the drive-flow discharge slit ~~[[66]]~~ is formed between a downstream face ~~[(50)]~~ of the first housing section ~~[(14)]~~ and an upstream face ~~[(54)]~~ of the flow-guiding element, ~~[(26)].~~

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 3 ~~or 4, characterized in that~~ wherein at least in ~~[[the]]~~ an area

of the drive-flow discharge slit ~~[(66)]~~, the flow-guiding element ~~[(26)]~~ is surrounded by a chamber ~~[(64)]~~ that connects the drive-flow inlet ~~(60, 60a, 60b, 60e)~~ with the drive-flow discharge slit. ~~[(66).]~~

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the auxiliary displaceable flow-guiding element ~~[(26)]~~ carries through to the second housing section ~~[(16)]~~ and is guided in the second housing section ~~[(16)]~~ in a sealed manner.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to ~~one of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein:

the outlet ~~(24, 24a, 24b, 24e)~~ is arranged in a third housing section; and (18), whereby

a downstream section ~~[(36)]~~ of the flow-guiding element ~~[(26)]~~ protrudes into the third housing section ~~[(18)]~~ and is guided in the third housing section ~~[(18)]~~ in a sealed manner.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a sealing element ~~(38) to seal~~ seals the flow-guiding element ~~[(26)]~~ against the third housing section; and ~~[(18)]~~

the sealing element is arranged in a groove ~~[[40]]~~ formed on the third housing section ~~[[18]]~~ and works together with a circumferential surface ~~[[32]]~~ of the flow-guiding element. ~~[[26).]]~~

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to ~~one of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 6, wherein quasi-static sealing elements are provided to seal the flow-guiding element ~~[[26]]~~ against at least one of the second and/or third housing section ~~(16, 18).~~ sections.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to ~~one of claims 3 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein an actuating element ~~[[68]]~~ is provided to effect the axial displacement of the flow-guiding element. ~~[[26).]]~~

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the actuating element ~~[[68]]~~ is a piezo actuator.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to ~~one of claims 10 or 11, characterized in that~~ claim 10, wherein the flow-guiding element ~~[[26]]~~ is resiliently pre-loaded in a direction opposite to

the fluid-flow direction $[(F)]$ in the fluid channel $[(42)]$ to close the drive-flow discharge slit $[(66)]$ when the actuating element $[(68)]$ is in its inactive state.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a Coanda flow amplifier ~~(10, 10a, 10b, 10e)~~ having a suction intake, an outlet, a fluid channel extending between the suction intake and the outlet, and a drive flow inlet that is in fluid flow communication with the fluid channel via a drive-flow discharge slit, wherein the flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit is variably adjustable; said method comprising:

feeding a fluid flow that is to be amplified to a suction intake; ~~(22, 22a, 22b, 22e),~~

feeding a drive-flow to $[(a)]$ the drive-flow inlet; ~~(60, 60a, 60b, 60e),~~
whereby the drive flow inlet ~~(60, 60a, 60b, 60e)~~ is fluid connected by a drive flow discharge slit ~~(66)~~ to a fluid channel ~~(42)~~ that extends between the suction intake ~~(22, 22a, 22b, 22e)~~ and an outlet ~~(24, 24a, 24b, 24e),~~

~~characterized in that~~ adjusting a variable flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit ~~(66)~~ is adjusted in such a way so that a pressure ratio between the output pressure of the drive flow when it leaves the drive-flow discharge slit $[(66)]$ and an intake pressure of the drive flow when it enters the drive-flow discharge slit $[(66)]$ does not exceed a critical pressure ratio.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the variable flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit ~~[(66)]~~ is adjusted so that the pressure ratio between the output pressure of the drive flow when it leaves the drive-flow discharge slit ~~[(66)]~~ and the intake pressure of the drive flow when it enters the drive-flow discharge slit ~~[(66)]~~ is equal to the critical pressure ratio.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system ~~(80; 90)~~ comprising:

at least one fuel cell; ~~(82; 92);~~

a fluid source; ~~(82; 92);~~

a fluid line; ~~(84; 100, 106, 112);~~

a Coanda flow amplifier ~~(10; 10a, 10b, 10e)~~ arranged in the fluid line, with ~~(84; 100, 106, 112), whereby both a suction intake (22, 22a, 22b, 22e) and an outlet (24, 24a, 24b, 24e) of the Coanda flow amplifier (10; 10a, 10b, 10e) are being fluid-connected to the fluid line (84; 100, 106, 112), and whereby a drive-flow inlet (60; 60a, 60b, 60e) of the Coanda flow amplifier being (10; 10a, 10b, 10e) is fluid-connected to the fluid source; (88; 102, 110, 116);~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the Coanda flow amplifier ~~(10, 10a, 10b, 10e)~~ is a Coanda flow amplifier ~~(10; 10a, 10b, 10e)~~ according to one of claims ~~1 to 11~~. includes,

a suction intake;

an outlet;

a fluid channel extending between the suction intake and the outlet;

and

a drive flow inlet that is in fluid flow communication with the fluid channel via a drive-flow discharge slit;

wherein the flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit is variably adjustable.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluid line ~~(84; 100, 106, 112)~~ is a purge-gas feed line ~~[(84)]~~ that is connected to the fuel cell. ~~[(82).]]~~

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluid line ~~(84; 100, 106, 112)~~ is a cathode gas supply line ~~[(100)]~~ that is connected to the fuel cell, ~~[(82).]~~

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluid line ~~(84; 100, 106, 112)~~ is a cold-starting-gas supply line that is connected to a cold-starting component.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluid line ~~(84; 100, 106, 112)~~ is an exhaust-gas recirculation line ~~(106, 112)~~ for the recirculation of fuel cell exhaust gas.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the exhaust gas recirculation line ~~(106, 112)~~ is an anode-exhaust-gas recirculation line ~~[(112)]~~ for the recirculation of anode exhaust gas and the anode gas is supplied to the fuel cell ~~[(92)]~~ from the fluid source, ~~[(116).]~~